Jackson ADA Advisory Council Meeting Minutes April 6, 2011

This meeting was held in the conference room of the Hood Building located on President St. in downtown Jackson. Attending today's meeting were members: Lee Cole, Chairperson; Sam Gleese, City ADA Coordinator; Karen Robinson; Jan Hawthorne; Scott Crawford; Christy Dunaway; Jason Bunch; Napoleon Campbell; Lyn Jefferson; Lynn Hill; Jackie Washington; Corinne Fox, City of Jackson Planning and Development. Non-Voting members attending were: Darlene Jardee and Tara Pereya, MS Department of Rehabilitation Services; Vanice Barnes, MS Industries for the Blind; Cindy Nugent, MS Library for the Blind; Judy Sikes, MS Coalition for Citizens with Disabilities. Guests attending today were: George Ewing, City of Jackson; Kay Hardage Esq., Disability Rights MS; Gwen Moore, City of Jackson Senior Services.

- I. Lee Cole called the meeting to order at 1:00 pm
- II. Opening Remarks Ms. Cole explained that we needed to complete business today by 2:00 due to a scheduling conflict with the conference room.
- III. Introductions were made around the table.
- IV. Christy Dunaway was asked to read the minutes from the March meeting. There were several minor changes to be made. Jan Hawthorne motioned to approve these minutes with the requested changes. Sam Gleese seconded and the motion carried.
- V. Updates and Presentations
 - a. Ms. Cole requested that Dr. Crawford provide an update on the 2035 Transportation Plan recently developed by the Central Mississippi Planning and Development District (CMPDD). Dr. Crawford stated that he and Ms. Dunaway had attended their most recent meeting for public comments. Both had reviewed the plan and Dr. Crawford submitted a number of comments, which he is happy to share with this Council if they would like to see them. In summary, there is little effort made to plan for the needs of people with disabilities. He has requested that the disability community be included in future planning meetings. Ms. Cole commented that she plans to invite Larry Smith with CMPDD to the next Council meeting.
 - b. Mr. Gleese informed the Council that the VA bus stop was on the top of the City's list for upgrades to bus stops. George Ewing, acting as Project Manager for improvements to JATRAN bus stops, requested a sub-committee of this group to meet with the sub-contractor. Christy Dunaway, Scott Crawford and Judy Sikes volunteered to serve as that sub-committee.
 - c. The City has received the results of the ADA survey conducted by JBHM Architects. The buildings surveyed were selected based on age, number of private citizens utilizing the buildings, i.e., City Auditorium, Fire stations, etc. and several other rankings. The top ones were provided to JBHM and they conducted detailed site surveys and studies of each. It is an extremely lengthy report and can not be put on a flash drive. However, it is available in Mr. Gleese's office if members of this committee want to review it. Dr. Crawford did request a copy of the study on a DVD and urged us to review it.

- d. Mr. Gleese informed the Council that City staff, Parks and Recreation staff and, Human and Cultural Services staff, in conjunction with the Red Cross, did a walk through of all emergency shelters to ensure their accessibility. They identified all issues and made a list of needed changes. The Red Cross will provide the City with a summary of their findings. These findings will be given to Mr. Ewing and noted items will be addressed. Ms. Cole asked if these shelters were staffed with city employees. If so, she requested they receive disability awareness training. Ms. Gwen Moore from Senior Services stated that her staff had recently received training from Judy Sikes with MSCCD. Her staff have also have attended Connect 1, a conference aimed at improving emergency response for people with disabilities, and plan to return again this year. She did state that some shelters they believed to be accessible were not. Ms. Dunaway asked Mr. Ewing what their next steps would be toward ensuring accessibility. As funding becomes available to them, they will make the necessary changes. Sam Gleese pointed out that the City needs more funding and he requested that the Council members let them know of any grant opportunities we were aware of.
- e. Mr. Gleese asked Ms. Gwen Moore to present to the Council regarding services available through the City senior services programs. Ms. Moore distributed brochures to the Council. She explained that the senior centers are located throughout the city. Each center is fully accessible. They provide transportation to their participants and it is also accessible. Programs and activities are offered based on participant interest. They do have guest speakers to share information on current events and activities of interest. They are currently working with the Red Cross to be better prepared for disaster. Several ideas were suggested for this Council, and people with disabilities in general, to be more actively involved in the senior centers, like visiting them and offering to be more involved.
- VI. Old Business and New Business were deferred until the May meeting due to time.
- VII. Sam Gleese distributed copies of the By-laws being proposed for this Council. He requested that the members review them for discussion at the next meeting.
- VIII. Next meeting is scheduled for May 4 at 1:00 pm.
- IX. There being no further business, this meeting was adjourned.

These Minutes were prepared by Dr. Scott Crawford and approved at the May 04, 2011 meeting.